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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF FRESNO**

LUCIANO HERNANDEZ and MIGUEL  
ANGEL RAMIREZ-MAYA, individually, on  
behalf of all others similarly situated, and on  
behalf of the State of California and other  
aggrieved persons; and SILVIANO  
RODRIGUEZ, individually, and on behalf of  
all other similarly situated,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

BURFORD FARMING COMPANY, INC., a  
California corporation, and DOES 1 through  
10, inclusive,

*Defendants.*

Case No. 21CECG03817

**CLASS & REPRESENTATIVE ACTION**

[Assigned to: Hon. D. Tyler Tharpe, Dept.  
501]

**DECLARATION OF MIGUEL ANGEL  
RAMIREZ-MAYA IN SUPPORT OF  
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR FINAL  
APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION  
SETTLEMENT**

**FINAL APPROVAL HEARING**

Date: August 10, 2023  
Time: 3:30 p.m.  
Dept: 501

**DECLARATION OF MIGUEL ANGEL RAMIREZ-MAYA**

I, Miguel Angel Ramirez-Maya, declare as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of the State of California, and, if called as a witness in this action, I would testify truthfully to the matters described in this declaration. All of the matters described in this declaration are within my personal knowledge, except those matters that are stated to be upon information and belief. As to such matters, I believe them to be true.

2. I make this declaration entirely of my own free will and choice. I have not been promised any benefit for doing so, and I have not been pressured into giving this declaration. Before signing this declaration, I was given the opportunity to review it, make changes, and verify the accuracy of its contents.

3. I am a former employee of Burford Farming Company, Inc. (“Burford Farming”). I worked at Burford Farming from approximately May 2005 to approximately May 2021 as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee. Throughout the entirety of my employment, I was subject to all of Burford Farming’s policies and practices that have been alleged as unlawful in the Class Action Complaint and Private Attorneys General Act (“PAGA”) Notice sent to Burford Farming and the Labor & Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”).

4. I participated in this lawsuit because I was concerned that I was not paid properly for all the hours that I worked, and I was not provided all of my meal and rest breaks.

5. By participating in this lawsuit as one of the class representatives, I hoped that I might be able to change Burford Farming’s policies to better protect the working conditions of my co-workers. I also understood that it was my duty as a class representative to represent the best interests of the class, know about the lawsuit, assist my attorneys, and keep updated on the case.

6. I have invested a lot of personal time and energy into this lawsuit. As detailed more fully below, I have spent **at least 70 hours on this case**. I made it a priority to be actively involved because I wanted to do everything I can to assist my attorneys in prosecuting this case.

7. Throughout this case, I spent a lot of time on the phone with my attorneys and their staff to get updates about the case and provide them with information. Additionally, leading up to

1 the mediation in June 2022, I had multiple lengthy phone calls with Wilshire Law Firm regarding  
2 the claims at issue and what was to transpire at the mediation.

3 8. Throughout the case, I also spent time looking for documents relevant to the case to  
4 send to my attorneys. I spent many hours looking for these documents, including when I first  
5 contacted my attorneys, before my attorneys filed the case, and before my case was mediated. I  
6 also spent time reviewing legal documents in this case, including the settlement agreement, which  
7 I reviewed in detail with my attorneys.

8 9. Additionally, I made myself fully available on the day of mediation and was in  
9 continuous contact with my attorneys to assist with any questions or issues that may have arisen.

10 10. I believe the settlement is a good settlement and I would recommend that the Court  
11 approve it because I believe that this settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. I am glad that I  
12 had the opportunity to represent the class in this lawsuit and that I was able to recover money  
13 through a settlement for the class.

14 11. I did not make the decision to participate in a class action lightly. I was concerned  
15 by the attention a publicly filed lawsuit, and especially a class action, would attract. My name  
16 would be associated with a lawsuit that I filed against my former employer. I am mindful that  
17 prospective employers might find out that I sued Burford Farming. Nevertheless, I felt that  
18 important rights were at stake that hurt everyone, and something ought to be done about it.

19 12. I also understand that there was financial risk in bringing this lawsuit. For example,  
20 I knew that if I did not prevail in this lawsuit that I could potentially be responsible for Burford  
21 Farming's attorneys' fees and costs.

22 13. I understand that the settlement agreement provides a service payment to me in the  
23 amount of \$10,000. I believe this amount is fair compensation for my time and effort on this case,  
24 for helping to prosecute this case, and the risks with respect to my future employment. In addition,  
25 the settlement requires that I enter into a general release, which I understand is broader than the  
26 release that will bind other class members. I am receiving no compensation additional to that  
27 provided for in the settlement.  
28

1           14.     Based on my involvement in this case and the benefits provided to my former co-  
2 workers, I can say I helped stand up for the other workers who were too afraid to say anything to  
3 management because they did not want to risk losing their jobs or risk the stigma of suing an  
4 employer. I was not afraid to take that risk because I strongly care about helping out my former  
5 co-workers.

6           15.     I reviewed (and ultimately signed) the Class Action and PAGA Settlement  
7 Agreement in full and my attorneys answered all the questions I had. I believe the settlement terms  
8 and allocations are fair, adequate, and reasonable given the strength of the class claims and Guinn's  
9 defenses.

10                   I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California and the  
11 United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct.

12           Executed on 7/19/2023 at Cantua Creek, California.

13                   DocuSigned by:

14                   Miguel Ramirez

15                   C9436DFF1F3B4B2  
16                   Miguel Angel Ramirez-Maya

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WILSHIRE LAW FIRM, PLC  
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Los Angeles, CA 90010-1137

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

*Hernandez, et al. v. Burford Farming Company, Inc., et al.*  
21CECG03817

STATE OF CALIFORNIA            )  
                                                  ) ss  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES    )

I, Ashley Narinyans, state that I am employed in the aforesaid County, State of California; I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within action; my business address is 3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, California 90010. My electronic service address is anarinyans@wilshirelawfirm.com.

On **July 19, 2023**, I served the foregoing **DECLARATION OF MIGUEL ANGEL RAMIREZ-MAYA IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**, on the interested parties by placing a true copy thereof, enclosed in a sealed envelope by following one of the methods of service as follows:

Ronald H. Barsamian (SBN 81531)  
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Attorneys for Defendant

(X) **BY UPLOAD:** I hereby certify that the documents were uploaded by my office to the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Online Filing Site.

(X) **BY E-MAIL:** I hereby certify that this document was served from Los Angeles, California, by e-mail delivery on the parties listed herein at their most recent known email address or e-mail of record in this action.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on **July 19, 2023**, at Los Angeles, California.

Ashley Narinyans  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Type or Print Name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature